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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 KINSHASA 000076

SIPDIS

FROM BRAZZAVILLE EMBASSY OFFICE

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PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHER

E.O.12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CONGO/B: CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP -
COMIFAC HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT (FEB. 1-7, 2005)

REF: 04 KINSHASA 2296

1. SUMMARY: Embassy Brazzaville obtained the program for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership - COMIFAC Heads of State Summit scheduled for February 1-7, 2005. The host government has provided a list of U.S. Government officials to whom invitations have been sent. Hotel space during the week of the summit is expected to be very scarce. END SUMMARY.

2. SCARCITY OF HOTEL SPACE IN BRAZZAVILLE: The host government has placed a priority hold on nearly all hotel space in Brazzaville from January 31 through February 7 in order to provide lodging for official delegations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs assured post that lodging would be available for the official U.S. delegation. Post again advises that, given there is no CMR and one is not foreseen until late March 2005, Embassy can only house internally two people in the available TDY space the Mission has in Brazzaville. Chiefssand, due to changes in the U.S. Administration

3. INVITED U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS: Invitations to the summit have been issued so far for the following U.S. Government officials:

President Bush

Secretary Powell

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David Kaeuper - Department of State, CBFP Facilitator

John Flynn - Central Africa Regional Project for the Environment, USAID, Kinshasa, DRCy

Rudy Dalessandro - National Park Service, Office of International Affairs

Alex Moad - U.S. Forest Service, International Programs

Richard Ruggiero - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of International Conservation

Woody Turner - National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Office of Earth Science

4. SUMMIT SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 1, 2005 (TUESDAY)

Meeting of the COMIFAC Experts

0800-0900 - Registration and documentation of experts
(Palace of Parliament - Room 102)

0900 - Opening ceremony of the meeting of experts
(Palace of Parliament - International Conference Room)

0930 - Coffee break

1000 - Work session

- Installation of meeting officials
- Presentation and adoption of the meeting program
- Presentation of the work methodology
- Presentation of topics: treaty, financing mechanism, initiatives on cross-border protected zones, forest certification, Kyoto protocol, enforcement of forestry laws, NEPAD action plan

1300 - Lunch break

1430 - Summary of morning session

- Study of various recommendation proposals related to the Summit

1630 - Adoption of the recommendation proposals related to the Summit

1700 - Closing ceremony of the meeting of experts

FEBRUARY 2, 2005 (WEDNESDAY)
Extraordinary Session of COMIFAC

0830-0930 - Closed meeting of the Council of Ministers of COMIFAC

1000 - Opening ceremony of the Extraordinary Session of COMIFAC (Palace of Parliament - International Conference Room)

- Brief welcome speech by the Congo/B Minister of Forest Economy and Environment
- Speech by the departing facilitator (United States)
- Summary speech by the President of COMIFAC
- Opening speech by Congo/B Minister of State

1130 - Opening and visit to exhibit stands

1300 - Lunch break

1430 - COMIFAC work session
- Installation of officers and adoption of day's order of business

- Presentation of the report of the experts
- Study and adoption of the resolutions to submit to the consideration of the Chiefs of State

1700 - Coffee break

1730 - Resumption of work
- Reading of final communiqu 

- Closure of work session

2000 - Dinner offered by the Congo/B Government

FEBRUARY 3, 2005 (THURSDAY)
Ministerial Segment of Participating Countries and Representatives of International Organizations

1000 - Opening ceremony
- Speech by the COMIFAC President
ACTION REQUESTED:
Please pass this cable to invitees and their respective agencies. Please advise if any plan to attend. The Embassy has the original invitations, which are in French. RSVP is requested by Jan. 10, 2005.

- Opening speech by the Congo/B Minister of State

1030 - Coffee break

1100 - Resumption of work
- Installation of officers
- Presentation of current challenges in conservation and management of the forests of central Africa
- Presentations of United Nations Organizations and other partners
- Interactive exchange among the participating Ministers

1300 - Lunch break

1600 - Presentations of international experts
- Debt for nature
- Long-term credits
- Carbon sequestration
- Implementation and financing strategy of the Plan of Convergence

1730 - Closure of work, by Congo/B Minister of Forest Economy and Environment

FEBRUARY 4, 2005 (FRIDAY)

1000 - Inauguration of Elephant Monument (Patte d'Oie Forest Reserve)

FEBRUARY 5, 2005 (SATURDAY)
Heads of State Summit

0800 - Arrival at the Palace of Parliament of the delegations and invited guests

0905 - Arrival at the Palace of Parliament of the Heads of State

0955 - Arrival at the Palace of Parliament of the President of the Republic of Congo

1000 - Opening ceremony of the Heads of State Summit on Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa
- Speeches by heads of state, including the President

of the United States of America

1130 - Consultations of heads of state
- Closed meeting of heads of state
- Signing of the Treaty of the Heads of State of Central Africa, in presence of national and international press

1200 - Press conference by the following heads of state:
- President Denis Sassou-Nguesso (Republic of Congo)
- President Paul Biya (Cameroon)
- President Omar Bongo (Gabon)
- President Jacques Chirac (France)

1330 - Departure of President Chirac (Maya-Maya International Airport)

1600 - Resumption of consultations of heads of state

1700 - Closing ceremony of the Summit of Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa

2100 - Evening gala offered by the World Bank and World Wildlife Fund (Olympic Palace Hotel)

FEBRUARY 6, 2005 (SUNDAY)

Excursion on the Congo River to the tree nursery of the National Reforestation Service at Kintele

FEBRUARY 7, 2005 (MONDAY)
Consultation of CBFP Partners

1000 - Opening ceremony
- Introduction by the Congo/B Minister of Forest Economy and Environment
- Speech by the President of COMIFAC
- Speech by the Congo/B Minister of State

1300 - End of the program of the Heads of State Summit on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa

57 Brazzaville Embassy Office - Sanders.
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